

Federal mandatory minimum sentences, after receiving testimony from Senator Paul; Marc Levin, Texas Public Policy Foundation, Austin; Brett Tolman, Ray Quinney and Nebeker, PC, Salt Lake City, Utah; and Scott Burns, National District Attorneys Association, Alexandria, Virginia.

CLOSING THE WEALTH GAP

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine closing the wealth gap, focusing on empowering America to reach its full economic potential for growth and job creation, after receiving testimony from Darryl Hairston, Associate Administrator for Business Development, Small Business Administration; Zenita Wickham Hurley, State of Maryland Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs, Baltimore; Signe-Mary McKernan, The Urban Institute, Rakesh Kochhar, Pew Research Center, Toya Powell, U.S. Black Chambers, Inc., Lisa Hasegawa, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, Kevin Allis, Potawatomi Business Development Corporation, and Shree Whitaker Taylor, Delta Decisions of DC, all of Washington, D.C.; Connie E. Evans, Association for Enterprise

Opportunity, Arlington, Virginia; Barbara Crain Major, Collaborative, New Orleans, Louisiana; and Anisa Balwani, RCI Technologies, Inc., Iselin, New Jersey.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: On Tuesday, September 17, 2013, Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress.

HIV/AIDS IN AMERICA

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine older Americans, focusing on the changing face of HIV/AIDS in America, after receiving testimony from Ronald O. Valdiserri, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Infectious Diseases, Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy, Department of Health and Human Services; Daniel Tietz, AIDS Community Research Initiative of America, and Rowena Johnston, amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, both of New York, New York; Carolyn L. Massey, Massmer Associates, LLC, Laurel, Maryland; and Kenney Miller, Down East AIDS Network, Ellsworth, Maine.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 14 public bills, H.R. 3119–3132; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 56; and H. Res. 349–350 were introduced.

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Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H5655–56

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 351, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 687) to facilitate the efficient extraction of mineral resources in southeast Arizona by authorizing and directing exchange of Federal and non-Federal land, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1526) to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3102) to amend the Food and Nutrition

Act 2008; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–215); and

H. Res. 352, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 59) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 113–216).

Pages H5653–54

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative LaMalfa to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

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Recess: The House recessed at 10:55 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H5597

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Dale Ribble, Oak Lake Church, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Page H5597

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated yesterday, September 17th:

Providing for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central

Asia: H.R. 301, amended, to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 402 yeas to 22 nays, Roll No. 465. **Pages H5606–09**

National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013: The House passed H.R. 761, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness, by a recorded vote of 246 yeas to 178 noes, Roll No. 471. **Pages H5600–06, H5609–24**

Rejected the Cicilline motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 197 yeas to 229 noes, Roll No. 470. **Pages H5621–23**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule.

Pages H5600, H5604

Agreed to:

Pearce amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 113–214) that clarifies the intention of the bill that it will not impact Secretarial Order 3324, as it relates to oil/gas and potash. **Page H5617**

Rejected:

Lowenthal amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 113–214) that sought to clarify that the definition of “Strategic and Critical Minerals” only includes the minerals identified by the National Research Council (NRC) as strategic and critical minerals (and any additional minerals added by the Secretary that meet the NRC’s criteria). Also would clarify that the definition of “Mineral Exploration or Mine Permit” in this underlying legislation only refers to mineral exploration or mine permit for strategic and critical minerals (by a recorded vote of 187 yeas to 241 noes, Roll No. 466); **Pages H5612–14, H5618–19**

Veasey amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 113–214) that sought to designate the Secretary of Interior to publish no later than 60 days after enactment of the bill a list of “Strategic and Critical Minerals” for the purpose of the bill. The Secretary must update the list every 5 years (by a recorded vote of 189 yeas to 237 noes, Roll No. 467);

Pages H5614–15, H5619–20

Connolly amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 113–214) that sought to require mineral exploration and mining projects to be subjected to an Environmental Impact Statement review prior to approval. Removes the arbitrary limit on the time frame for

such reviews (by a recorded vote of 186 yeas to 240 noes, Roll No. 468); and **Pages H5615–16, H5620**

Hastings (FL) amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 113–214) that sought to require that the cost of cleanup be included in financial assurance and that financial insurance instruments shall be in the form of a surety bond, letter of credit or other instrument that would routinely be accepted in commerce (by a recorded vote of 191 yeas to 235 noes, Roll No. 469). **Pages H5616–17, H5620–21**

H. Res. 347, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a recorded vote of 231 yeas to 190 noes, Roll No. 464, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 229 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 463. **Pages H5600–06**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:31 p.m. and reconvened at 4:31 p.m. **Page H5618**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 349, electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H5624**

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001 is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2013—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 113–63).

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Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted the text of the Agreement Between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for Cooperation Regarding Atomic Information, including a technical annex and security annex—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 113–64). **Page H5641**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes and seven recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5605, H5605–06, H5606, H5619, H5619–20, H5620, H5621, H5622–23, H5623–24. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SEQUESTRATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE MILITARY SERVICES ON THE STRATEGIC CHOICES AND MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing on Planning for Sequestration in Fiscal Year 2014 and Perspectives of the Military Services on the